

LEGISLATION TO EXPAND THE
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS'
ROLE IN CHESAPEAKE BAY RES-
Toration

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce legislation that would strengthen and expand the Army Corps of Engineers' role in Chesapeake Bay restoration—a mission they first began in 1996. This legislation would provide the Corps with continuing authority to engage in this work; expand the Corps' work to all six States in the Bay watershed and the District of Columbia; and provide flexibility for the Corps to work with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and not-for-profit groups engaged in Bay cleanup.

As the Congress begins to consider the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act, we must take this opportunity to strengthen the role that the Army Corps of Engineers plays in Chesapeake Bay cleanup. We must turn the tide in the Bay cleanup effort so future generations can continue to enjoy the cultural, historic, and recreational benefits of the Bay and so it can continue to be an economic driver for the Mid-Atlantic region. The Corps can play an important role in that effort.

The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, which was established in section 510 of WRDA 1996, authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers to provide design and construction assistance to State and local authorities in the environmental restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. These projects range from shoreline buffers to oyster reef construction. As it is currently structured however, the program has been limited in its scope for several reasons. First, the Corps' restoration efforts have been limited to Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, which has precluded a comprehensive, watershed-wide plan that adequately prioritizes projects. Second, unlike all other major Federal agencies engaged in Bay restoration, the Corps has no small watershed grants program that engages State and local governments or non-profits in small scale restoration projects. This limitation is compounded by the Corps' intricate procurement processes. Finally, the matching fund requirements of the section 510 program does not allow for the use of in-kind services or contributions, which limits collaboration.

The Chesapeake Bay Commission, a multi-State legislative assembly dedicated to the restoration of the Bay, has previously identified these deficiencies and has recommended the several improvements to the program that are the basis for this legislation. For these reasons, I believe the bill would strengthen the section 510 program so that the Army Corps of Engineers can continue to be a strong partner in Chesapeake Bay cleanup.

I hope my colleagues will continue to support this legislation through the upcoming WRDA process.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
GREATER AWARENESS OF OVARIAN
CANCER

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 727, emphasizing the need for greater awareness about ovarian cancer and adopting the goals and ideals established by National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Having lost my wife of 36 years, Jeanne, to ovarian cancer in 2004, I am acutely sensitive to the need for reliable early detection programs and effective treatments for late stage ovarian cancer. I am not alone in having lost a loved one to this disease—ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecologic cancers, affecting over 20,000 women a year. Ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of cancer death in women, killing nearly 55 percent of those diagnosed within the first 5 years. Despite this tragically high toll, we still remain woefully ignorant of proper prevention strategies for ovarian cancer, and have yet to develop a reliable early detection program.

While over 90 percent of ovarian cancer cases can be prevented with early screening and treatment, many women remain unaware of their risk factors and the early symptoms of ovarian cancer are particularly difficult to accurately diagnose. Because of this, 75 percent of ovarian cancer cases are diagnosed in the advanced stages where it is often too late to prevent the cancer's spread. Awareness and early recognition are the best way to save women's lives.

Congress is making some effort to address the inadequacies in our current system. For example, in November 2005, the House passed the Gynecological Resolution for the Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Education in a bipartisan effort to increase the public's understanding of this deadly disease. The President and nonprofit advocacy groups are also engaged in educating the public. President Obama proclaimed September National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and throughout September, the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance held hundreds of events across the country to inform women about the importance of gynecologic exams, and to teach them about the warning signs of ovarian cancer.

Better education, more funding for research, and increased awareness efforts are critical to ensuring that we reduce infection and mortality rates for ovarian cancer in women. I urge my colleagues to continue our efforts to increase research funding to cure ovarian cancer and support public outreach programs on the prevention and treatment of gynecological cancers.

H1N1 VACCINE FOR PRISONERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we all know there is limited supply of the H1N1

vaccines all over our country. In Texas, there was news that prisoners could receive the swine flu vaccine before children and pregnant women. There are over 45,000 inmates who are evidently in the "high-risk" group in Texas. The correctional institutions believe that the convicts deserve to be vaccinated. Due to the limited number of vaccines available for Texas, the inmates may not receive them as soon as they wish.

By what logic do you justify having inmates receive vaccinations as a higher priority than pregnant women and children? These individuals are the most vulnerable among us and should be of great concern; not to mention senior adults, caregivers, and many others that should be high on the list. When these vaccines are provided to the states it should go to our taxpayers before our "high risk" convicts. The government needs to step up to the plate and provide the available vaccines to the people who need them the most—the children.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS
NATIONAL DIABETES MONTH

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 2, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, this week the co-chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus joined with 129 original cosponsors to introduce H. Res. 914, a resolution supporting the observance of National Diabetes Month.

The resolution encourages people in the United States to fight diabetes through raising public awareness about stopping diabetes and increasing education about the disease. It also recognizes the importance of early detection, awareness of the symptoms of diabetes, and the risk factors for type 2 diabetes. Finally, it supports decreasing the prevalence of diabetes, developing better treatments and working toward an eventual cure for type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

Since diabetes afflicts nearly 24 million Americans and is the seventh leading cause of death, we must increase awareness and encourage the research to find cures. National Diabetes Month is observed every November and is an excellent way to build awareness about both type 1 and type 2 diabetes. Too many people are not familiar with the differences between type 1 and type 2 diabetes and how they are treated, what the risk factors are, and what sort of research is needed to make progress in the fight against this disease.

That is why the mission of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus is to educate Members of Congress and their staff about diabetes. It is also our mission to support legislation and other efforts to improve diabetes research, education, and treatment.

The legislative priorities of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus support the goals and ideals of National Diabetes Month. For example, H.R. 1995, The Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act, is designed to promote research, treatment, and education regarding diabetes in minority populations. This specific focus will help us address the unique challenges faced by minority populations and provide more effective treatment and education.